

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 HA-05 L-03 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-10
NSAE-00 PA-01 ICA-11 SP-02 AID-05 COME-00 EB-08
FRB-03 TRSE-00 XMB-02 OPIC-03 LAB-04 SIL-01
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P 282209Z AUG 78
FM AMEMBASSY LIMA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 1607

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE LIMA 7677

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: ELAB PINT PE
SUBJ: MINE STRIKE LEADERS REJECT GOVERNMENT OFFER

REF: LIMA 7629 AND PREVIOUS

1. IN AUG 25 MEETING WITH MINE WORKERS' REPRESENTATIVES, PRESIDENT MORALES BERMUDEZ PRESENTED A 6-POINT PROGRAM WHICH WOULD TAKE EFFECT ONCE THE STRIKE IS LIFTED. PRESIDENT'S OFF MEETS A NUMBER OF DEMANDS OF MINERS, INCLUDING (A) A PROMISE TO ANNUL THE EMERGENCY MINING LAW AND REVISE THE LABOR STABILITY LAW WHICH, INTER ALIA, PERMIT FIRING OF WORKERS ENGAGED IN ILLEGAL STRIKES; (B) NO REPRISALS AGAINST STRIKERS; (C) A GOVERNMENT GUARANTEE THAT PROMISES MADE BY MINING FIRMS WOULD BE KEPT WITH RESPECT TO COMPENSATION FOR FIRED WORKERS AND ASSISTANCE TO FIRED WORKERS IN FORMING NEW SMALL ENTERPRISES ON THEIR OWN; (D) A REPEAL OF THE STATE OF EMERGENCY IN THE MINING AREAS; (E) A PROMISE TO HAVE THE MINISTRIES OF LABOR AND ENERGY AND MINES SEEK SOLUTIONS TO UNIQUE PROBLEMS WHICH HAVE EMERGED AT SELECTED MINING CENTERS. MOST SIGNIFICANTLY, THE PRESIDENT'S OFFER DOES NOT RPT NOT MEET THE MINERS' DEMAND THAT FIRED WORKERS BE REHIRED.

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2. MINE WORKERS' REPRESENTATIVES ANNOUNCED ON AUG 26 THEIR REJECTION OF THE PRESIDENT'S OFFER, AND STATED THAT THE STRIKE WOULD ONLY BE LIFTED AFTER ALL THEIR DEMANDS WERE MET.

3. SOUTHERN PERU COPPER CORPORATION (SPCC) OFFICIAL TOLD EMBASSY OFFICER MORNING OF AUG 28 THAT STRIKE CONTINUES UNCHANGED AT ITS FACILITIES SINCE LAST REPORT (REFTEL).

4. MINISTER OF ECONOMY SILVA RUETE DENOUNCED THE MINERS' STRIKE AS "AGGRESSION" AGAINST THE ECONOMY, COSTING TWO AND ONE-HALF MILLION DOLLARS DAILY. (THIS CLOSELY CORROBORATES INFORMATION PROVIDED US BY OFFICIALS OF SPCC, CENTROMIN, HIERROPERU AND MINEROPERU ON THEIR DAILY LOSSES.) THUS, SO FAR THE 25-DAY-OLD STRIKE HAS COST PERU ROUGHLY \$60 MILLION, AS CENTRAL BANK PRESIDENT MANUEL MOREYRA INDICATED TO THE PRESS AUG 27.

DECON 8/28/79. SHLAUDEMAN

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